NEW ADDRESS: Rt. 7, Frederick, Md. 21701

2/21/68

Dear Mr. Levin,

When I was in California my wife informed me of your telegram. I was so busy, as I imagine you know if your heard my broadcasts, I did not have time to phone you. When David Lifton phoned me and told me he had been counselling with you and that he had had you insert some of the language in your letter I am glad that it was not possible for me to phone you, for it is better all around that this be in writing.

I accept your representations as a declaration of your own honorable intentions. If I had ever doubted them, I would not have engaged in a verbal understanding to begin with and one without the principal's signature thereafter.

However, the correct facts are these: The original offer was to pay my expenses. This was later confirmed when you presented the proper questions by your principal about my appearance if I had to be in New Orleans at that time. I never added any charges or costs to transportation, not even the usual ones of accomodations, for I did not expect to incur such costs.

It is inconceivable that this was originally planned as a daytime, school-only meeting, for you not only made clear that it was not but you explained the necessity of certainty before tickets were printed and advertising put out.

Despite his contrary protestations, Mr. Lifton is an associate of Mr. Liebeler. He told me that the real cause was that I had added charges to what you would have to pay. You know this is false. I believe it should inform you or his position in this matter, which was none of his business. He is not connected with your school or your class, is connected only with Mr. Liebeler.

Does it not surprise you that he knew of this debate? I did not inform him of it. Does it not surprise you that he suddenly appeared to give you advice on writing your letter? If you needed help, certainly it was available from your school officials or your parents.

This is, of course, an embarrassment for me, for I had to schedule my time to make it possible, and I made other commitments I will now not be able to keep. I repeat, I hold you personally faultless. At the same time, I reiterate that your letter of February 9 is not entirely consistent with reality.

We all learn a little from those things that go wrong. May I suggest that from this you might learn that you are able to handle your own affairs, with such advice as is normally required by high-school students? Mr. Lifton's intrusion was no kindness to you. It might have needlessly embroiled you in a dispute if I had any intention of making an issue of it.

Meanwhile, I do thnak you for your promptness in letting me know.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg